

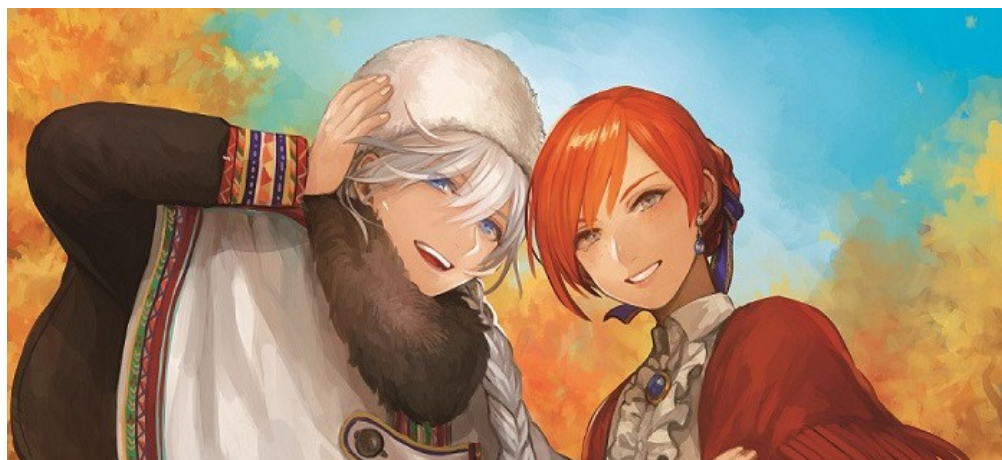
The Snow Country Hunting Life of the Northern Nobleman and the Raptor Wife 北欧貴族と猛禽妻の雪国狩 り暮らし

Requested Chapters

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Chapter 78 - The Splendid Snow Fairy's Exploit!?

Recently, Sieg's eighth brother looked depressed.

"Welcome back."

"Ah, yes. I have, returned now."

The brother-in-law's name is Ewald von Wattin. He's single and is a soldier.

Recently, his place of duty was moved to his homeland Thüringen, so he had returned to the mansion, but for the past few days he looked enervated.

Even when father-in-law asked, he only said, "There's nothing wrong," and did not reveal why he was depressed.

I was pondering what I should do, but I could not get any good ideas.

"If you leave him alone, he will recover."

"U~n, really~?"

Sieg replied as she was breastfeeding Arno.

"Ritz"

"What is it?"

"Don't needlessly bother yourself with brother."

"Eh, okay?"

When I approached Sieg for the whole story, I noticed that Arno who was having milk had stopped moving his lips. So I cradled him and gently patted his back. I then heard a "kefu~" sound, a satisfied sigh.

Now that he was full, Arno looked drowsy, so when I sang an adequate lullaby while rocking him he fell asleep in minutes. He really is a baby that is not bothersome.

I put Arno, who was sleeping peacefully, into a cradle and put a blanket over him. His soft sleeping face was so good that I thought that I would not tire from watching it.

“By the way, are your breasts alright?”

I remembered father-in-law saying that when women breastfeed after birth their breasts may hurt and milk might not come out, so I asked her.

“Doesn’t seem like a problem now.”

“I see.”

A while ago, I learned how to massage the breasts if the milk would not come out well from a passing midwife.

“Well, that’s how it is, so please tell me if there are any problems.”

“No, I can do that by myself, so won’t you tell me the method?”

“Eh!?”

“I don’t really think that Ritz needs to do that.”

No no, no way!!

To make a wife be alone when she is in pain, that’s something the worst brute would do. Spouses should share their feelings in pain or in joy.

I had listened to the method of massaging breasts for lactation with great resolve.

It was three hour lecture. The part on the method took only ten minutes, and for the rest I endured having to humour the ladies in their gossips, to learn the method.

“I definitely do not have any ulterior motives in massaging your breasts!”

“.....”

“I am doing everything out of consideration for Arno and Sieglinde.”

“.....”

It was scary getting glared at, so I promptly explained the method.

“Ah, come to think of it, we digressed from the topic of your brother.”

“Yes we did.”

It seemed like Sieg was not amused since I was worrying about brother-in-law too much.

“Ritz is too much of a philanthropist.”

“No, Arno and Sieg are the most important in the world.”

“I wonder about that.”

There is a reason I am this worried for Sieg’s eighth brother.

“That brother-in-law has the face closest to Sieg’s, that when he makes a sad expression it bothers me.”

“So that’s what it was.”

When I first met him, I was very surprised. Other than him being the smallest in size among the brothers, brother-in-law was the spitting image of Sieg.

“For some reason, it feels as though Sieg is depressed~ or so I felt.”

However, my brother-in-law did not tell us the reason for his depression.

“Then, we will hear the details by getting him drunk.”

“Ohh!”

Like so, the plan to gather information by getting brother-in-law drunk was conceived.



Few days later.

Before his vacation ended, we invited brother-in-law and father-in-law for a drinking party.

“Ah, sorry about this. Gathering together for me.”

Brother-in-law spoke softly and politely, betraying his raptor-like appearance.

Sieg continuously filled brother-in-law’s glass with drinks of high alcohol content, urging him to drink more and more.

Even though they were siblings, their alcohol resistance did not seem to be the same. Brother-in-law’s face reddened within minutes, and he became very talkative.

Father-in-law took that as an opportunity to ask.

“So Ewald, will you not tell us why you are so depressed recently? All the family are worried for you.”

At father-in-law's words, brother-in-law hesitated, but a moment later he opened his tightly sealed lips.

"To be frank, a woman is courting me persistently....."

He said that he was in a pickle because she forced her favour on him every day when he is hectic trying to keep up with his new post. Also, since he thought that his family would say, "Marry away!" he did not tell us.

"Ewald, do you not like that woman?"

"It is not a question of like or dislike. I want to focus on work now."

I see.

That really is a difficult problem, I thought.

"Brother-in-law, so what you want is time, isn't it?"

"I suppose. Maybe for half a year."

While listening to his story, I thought that I was a lucky person for being able to marry when I proposed without reading the mood because I fell in love with her at first sight.

Sieglinde, my goddess.

I vowed in my head to continue my deep devotion towards her.

I glanced at Sieg. She was staring worriedly at brother-in-law, and I could also see that she really wanted to solve his problem.

"Hmm. It would be nice if there would be a method to stop that lady."

Father-in-law also shut his mouth with a troubled expression.

It seems that problems between men and women are deep. It probably is dangerous to rashly reach out.

“How about introducing someone as a lover?”

“!”

Immediately, the sharp gazes of the people of House Wattin pierced me.

It was a little intimidating, but I leaned in and explained my idea in detail.

“For example, have someone act as a lover, and ask that lady to say, “He is my lover.” Since it’s not a fiancée, wouldn’t it be more acceptable if he becomes available again in half a year?”

Was it too much of an easygoing way of thinking? While trembling slightly from them narrowing their eyes, I waited for their response.

“Ritzhard-kun, that is a brilliant idea!”

“Eh?”

“That method won’t worsen the relations either.”

“Really?”

“Thank you, Ritzhard-san!”

“No no.”

I was surprised at the unexpected praise.

“Th-Then, someone should ask a lady they know.”

But when I said that, the three of them fell silent.

It seems that there weren't any women fit for that role.

"Seems like it will be impossible."

"Brother, I'm sorry."

"Ewald, I think you should give up and accept her courting."

The mood grew gloomy again, that brother-in-law's glass was quickly emptied again.

We should end the party soon, lest brother-in-law be in pain tomorrow.

"Erm~, everyone, I think we should end soon."

Sieg looked over here and made a startled expression. I couldn't read her intentions, so I tilted my head.

"—No, wait. We have Ritz."

"Nn?"

"We can do something to Ritz and introduce him to that woman."

Yet again, the sharp raptor-like gazes fell on me.

The three of them were narrowing their eyes at me.

Someone muttered, "It's possible."

I didn't get what that meant, so I asked for elaboration.

"Erm, Sieg-san, what do you mean by that."

"Ritz, won't you dress up as a woman and pretend to be his lover?"

“Eh!?”

“Ritzhard-kun! You are our only hope now!”

“Eh, oh, erm.....”

“I apologise. I do think that it will be humiliating to dress up as a woman, but I beg you!”

“That can’t be.”

.....So, ultimately, I have to crossdress and pretend to be brother-in-law’s lover?

“No no no, I don’t think I pass as a woman by crossdressing! My arm’s got thicker recently, and so have my shoulders.”

“It’s not that different from Sieg’s, right!?”

“.....”

Eh, no way, that’s not how it is at all, or so I wanted to say, but I did not have the courage to compare myself to Sieg that I just smiled shallowly.

“H-However, won’t dresses for women not fit me.”

“No, we expected Sieg to return as a heavy warrior, so we had prepared a slightly large dress. It will fit Ritzhard-kun perfectly now.”

“Ah, i-is that, so.”

“The body silhouette can be hid using a shawl.”

“Haha, what are you saying~”

“Tomorrow, I will ask mother about it!”

“Are you serious!?”

Like so, the solution to brother-in-law’s problem was heading in a strange direction.

I don’t care what happens now~ I thought and gave up, deciding to go to sleep.

The next day.

Presenting myself like livestock, I was surrounded by women around the age of my mother.

“W-What a pretty hair colour!”

“The skin is clear white as well!”

“It’s like the fairy in the picture book!”

I was forced to put on body modifying undergarments, my buttocks were squeezed tightly that I became teary-eyed, and I had enough powder to choke on applied to me. I was a total wreck.

The dress prepared for Sieg surprisingly fit my body perfectly. The dress with a high collar had a dark green shade, and there were many fabrics around the chest. Apparently, the setting is that I have big breasts.

The hair I usually braid was also curled up at the back of my head and fixed with a decoration.

“How about going with the setting of a foreign princess!”

“A summer romance borne from half a year’s stay, how about that!”

“By the way, don’t speak a word. Even if you look like a fairy, your voice is still that of a man’s.”

“Ah, yes.”

Many background settings were being added arbitrarily. I couldn’t remember them all, so I just gave up on that.

“What about the name?”

“Richelle will do.”

I borrowed my mother’s name noncommittally and went out with brother-in-law.

The woman that was scheduled to be met was astonishingly beautiful. But, she had an endlessly strong personality.

However, when she heard that I am a foreign princess she pulled back refreshingly.

“I’m glad it went well.”

“Yes, it’s all thanks to Ritzhard-san.”

Brother-in-law happily headed to his night work. As for myself, I walked over to where the carriage of House Wattin was waiting for me.

Then a problem happened.

“Hey, lady, where are you from? Your face is not one that’s seen around these parts.”

“What a pretty girl. What’s your name?”

For the first time in my life, men were courting me.

Makeup is indeed amazing, I thought once again.

I thought of saying, “I’m a man!” in a low voice, but then the woman who was courting brother-in-law was still close by so I couldn’t raise my voice.

So, when I was mulling over what I should do, someone grabbed me from behind.

When I turned around while wondering who it was, I saw the appearance of Sieglinde in men’s clothes.

“——Eh!?”

“Unfortunately, she has an appointment with me.”

She said that and pulled me into the carriage.

“Are you alright?”

“Yes. I was just surprised, in many ways.”

Once I was brought into the carriage, I could finally take a breather.

“Sieg, why are you dressed like that?”

“Well, I thought that I shouldn’t be the only one to suffer an embarrassing appearance.”

Apparently she borrowed brother-in-law’s clothes. From seeing her dashing figure in men’s clothes after a long time, I was captivated.

“Sorry about today.”

“Well, brother-in-law’s mood improved,”

And I could see Sieg in men’s clothes, so all is well, I thought.

“As I thought, you look well in such clothes, Sieg.”

“Ritz, that fits you well too.”

“You’re teasing me again~”

To be told that I look good in women’s clothes, I felt a strange sensation.

While chatting and joking, we returned home.

In the end, Arno laughed at seeing me crossdressing, so all is well.

Like so, the incident surrounding brother-in-law was resolved.

Chapter 79 - The Dreaming Sisters and the Snow Fairy

—A fairy visits if a jar of honey, handmade cookies and a white flower is placed on the windowsill.



The sisters Edelgard and Adelgard moved to their grandfather's place half a year ago. The reason was because they were suffering from bronchitis.

The doctor recommended that they should live in the countryside for a while, so the sisters' father wrote a request for transfer and moved back to his hometown which was rich with nature.

In the new town, the sisters did not have any friends, and the number of stores were less. The environment was very different from before, that they were in a state of disorder.

To the sisters that were living in the city, living in the mansion surrounded by the deep and dark forests was a scary experience, that they holed up in their room.

Their grandmother could not just sit by and watch idly.

She read to them the fairytale of the forest that she read when she was young, to make them more used to the land of Thüringen.

"So, dearest grandmother, will a fairy come in winter?"

"Yes, he will."

The sisters became deeply interested in the spell to summon a fairy, leaving food that a fairy likes on moonlit nights.

"However, you can't see the fairies and they only appear in disguises. In addition, you can't see the small wings when you grow up."

“Really!?”

“Yes.”

Fairies likes honey, cookies, sugar sweets, and winter flowers.

“You will be able to find it when you walk outside.”

From grandmother’s story, a glint sparked in Edelgard’s and Adeltraud’s eyes.

Thus, the two of them started strolling the garden, searching for a fairy.

“Onesama, would fairy-san be small?”

“.....I don’t know. Grandmother also said that it might disguise itself.”

Edelgard said that it might not look liked the winged appearance in the picture book.

Even when the season changed and the snow started falling, the sisters did not find a fairy yet.

“So, we have to make the cookies ourselves?”

“.....Baking, that’s too hard for us.”

They thought that it would be hard without the cookies, but they could not give up.

The next day.

The sisters went out on a stroll to the forest lightly covered with snow with their grandfather.

“Edelgard, Adeltraud, is it not cold?”

“It’s alright, dearest grandfather.”

Edelgard also nodded to show that she was okay.

The two was at the forest to find a winter flower.

“Dearest grandfather, are there really flowers?”

“Aa, I think there are, or maybe not.”

The sisters’ grandfather proceeded through the forest relying on his fuzzy memory.

The further they went into the forest, the darker and thicker the forest grew. Their breaths were white, and Adeltraud even started coughing.

“Should we return soon.”

“I’m still fine!”

“Even if you say that.”

If they stay in the forest any longer they might catch a cold. Thinking that, their grandfather suggested to return to the mansion, but they did not nod.

If it’s like this, I should lift them up and take them home, as he thought that, he found Edelgard crouching down.

“Is there anything wrong, Edelgard!?”

“O-Onesama!?”

When Edelgard turned around, she had a frail white flower in her hand.

“.....Found it.”

“Waa!”

Underneath the overgrown vegetation, white flowers peeked out.

“These are snowdrops (schneeglöckchen).”

“How pretty!”

The flowers Edelgard found was one that bloomed in early spring, but for some reason they were blooming in this period.

The sisters decided to pick only one flower.

Night.

They placed the flower they picked in a vase placed it on the windowsill, along with a jar of honey.

“I wish that fairy-san will come!”

“.....I want to see, even if only once.”

As they looked out the window, the moon was getting full. They also heard that the full moon bolstered the power of fairies.

They looked at the white flower glistening from the moonlight. Even as their hearts fluttered, the sisters went to sleep.

Morning.

“Waa!”

“.....Amazing.”

When they opened their eyes, they were greeted by a snow-filled world. It had snowed greatly in the middle of the night that the garden was coated by a carpet of pure white.

“Onesama, snow fairy-san definitely cast a spell.”

“.....Eh?”

“Like I said, fairy-san cast a spell.”

Edelgard murmured, “.....really, a fairy?” with a vacant look.

“Onesama, did something happen?”

Adeltraud peered in at her older sister, and knocked her older sister’s hip.

Edelgard pointed to the garden with trembling hands. Then, Adeltraud peeped at the white world of snow.

“——Eh!?”

In the garden, there was a person that was white from head to toe.

His white hair was braided, he had clear white skin, and even his clothes were white, made from fur.

“Onesama, is that snow fairy-san?”

“.....Y-Yes, indeed, it seems so.”

The sisters could not believe what they were seeing that they opened their eyes wide.

They opened the window to see if he was the real thing, and the figure of the fairy did not disappear.

Edelgard grabbed the snowdrop flower and ran outside. Adeltraud followed closely behind.

Even as the servants told them to stay indoors because they would catch a cold, the sisters insisted that they will go outside. One servant brought coats and put them on to the sisters. Once they were protected against the cold, Edelgard started running again.

When they panted their way, they met with the white fairy from before in front of the door.

Edelgard caught her breath and looked up at the fairy.

Like the picture in the fairytale, he had shining white hair, clear and soft blue eyes. The fairy with the beautiful appearance saw the little girl and tilted his head in a lovely manner.

Adeltraud caught up to her sister, and was jumped up from surprise from seeing the fairy.

“W-Waa, fairy, mugu!”

Edelgard hurriedly covered her little sister’s mouth.

“Mugumugu!” What are you doing, the little sister protested, but the older sister said, “.....If his identity is revealed to the adults he will disappear,” quietening her sister down.

“You are?”

From receiving a question, the two fidgeted about.

“They are my nieces. The calm one is Edelgard, and the energertic one is Adeltraud.”

“I see~. ——Nice to meet you, Edelgard, Adeltraud.”

They did not even question why it was their aunt that brought the fairy to their home.

“Nice to meet you!”

“.....Erm.”

“What is it?”

Edelgard held out the white flower in her hand for the snow fairy.

“.....This, if you’d like.”

“Waa, what a pretty flower.”

Edelgard bowed as Adelgard smiled refreshingly.

“.....Thank you for coming.”

“I should be the one saying thank you.”

The fairy took the flower from the sisters and showed it to their aunt.

“Then, now, enjoy your meal~!”

“Eh!?”

Adeltraud offered the flower she likes to the snow fairy.

The fairy made a surprised expression.

Unlike him, Sieglinde who figured out the situation whispered something to the fairy that was standing with a vacant look. That it was a delicious meal prepared as a gesture of welcome.

“Ah, s-so, that!”

Having understood the meaning of the flower he was given, the fairy enjoyed the fragrance and swallowed his saliva. He then downed the frail white flower in one gulp. *mogu*

“.....I-It was delicious~. Thank you. It was hard finding such a flower in the snow, right?”

“Yes, onesama found it!”

The fairy crouched down and said words of appreciation, to which Edelgard and Adeltraud felt dreamy at.

Then, when the fairy was introduced as the husband of their aunt, the two became even more excited.

A fairy that fell in love with a human, how wonderful, they thought and returned to their room in an excited state.

The fairy that was their uncle was to stay with them for some time.

The fairy called Ritzhard was very knowledgeable, teaching the sisters the names of flowers and vegetations on their forest strolls, and even taught them how to make tea and snacks.

Edelgard and Adeltraud were fascinated by the blessings of nature, that they brought went out to the forest with their servants even when their uncle was not there.

The gentle forest of spring, the refreshing air of summer, the fruitions in autumn, the beautiful snowy plants of winter, their hearts were captured by the forest.

Before anyone realised it, they came to love the town rich with nature.

That did not change even after five years, or ten years.

While anticipating the visit of the snow fairy once a year, the warm life of the sisters continued.

Chapter 80 - The Table of the Revontulet Family

Today, apparently a merchant that is rarely seen has come to town to sell various goods.

Sieg told me after she returned from her stroll with Arno.

“Well, there wasn’t anything special.”

“How unfortunate.”

There were alcohol, fruits, spices and goods that weren’t available here, but for Sieg who came from abroad nothing caught her attention.

But then, an unexpected person entered the fray.

“Waa, Ritchan, mum wants to see the goods~!”

“Okay.”

“Let’s go together?”

“.....Okay.”

Mother said that she wanted to go see the peddler, so I ended up accompanying her.

“My, amazing! Ritchan, look look~”

“Okay, I am looking.”

I wonder why she is being so happy over shopping, I thought a little disheartedly.

“Excuse me~ this~ and this~”

Crouching down, mother browsed through the goods and showed them to the merchant. The large basket I brought from home quickly filled up.

“You’re buying a lot.”

“Yes. Since I want to feed everyone nice food!”

Maybe it was almost time to close up, since the merchant started organising his goods.

“Huh, these are,”

In buckets with salt water, there were black clams. There were four such buckets.

“Iya, I failed. The people here don’t eat clams.”

“Ah~ now that you say it, I think we don’t.”

The merchant brought the clams since they might sell, but the people of the forest did not take interest in them. I’ve eaten the black clams that did not sell at grandfather’s place, so I have seen them before.

“How about it? I’ll sell four buckets at the price of one.”

“Eh, cheap!”

Buying four buckets with the price of one bucket, what a great deal.

I returned after hearing the cooking method from the merchant.

After returning home, it was time to cook clams.

“For starters, why don’t I steam one bucketful with alcohol.”

“Ritchan, mussel soup is pretty nice as well.”

“Hehh~”

Why, mother knew the name of these clams. Apparently she tried them on her travels around the world.

“Then, I’ll be steaming the mussels.”

“Okay.”

First, we started by scrubbing the mussel shells. Since they are cooked with the shells still on, the merchant said that this process is important.

“Debeard the mussels, or so was said.”

“The weedy things on the shells, I wonder.”

The beard were quite strong. Apparently, they are used by the mussels to cling onto surfaces. They came off easily by tracing the line of the shells.

The cleaned mussels were piled up into a container, then we focused on cooking.

Olive oil was applied to a pot then herbs and crushed garlic was fried. When a fragrant smell rose up, mussels were put in. The pot lid is shut, then after a while white wine is poured. It’s finished once the mussel shells open.

Finally, I sprinkled dried herbs. When I was about to serve them out on dishes, mother stopped me.

“It’s okay to serve them in the pot.”

“Eh, really?”

Apparently they serve them in pots in stores.

As a finishing touch, thinly sliced lemons were placed in.

“Ah, just a bit.”

“?”

I was stopped for the second today.

Mother asked me for some of the broth that came out from the clam.

“What are you going to do with that?”

“I’m going to make Arno-chan’s meal~”

Since the taste is strong, the broth is watered down. Then, it’s boiled with rice in a strong fire until the rice becomes soupy to make mussel-flavoured baby food.

In another pot, mussel cream soup was being made. That looked tasty as well.

I placed the dishes on the table and called Sieg who was bathing Arno over.

For Arno, I put on a warm fur coat so that he won’t catch a cold, then I cradled him.

“Arno, grandma is making something tasty for you~”

Now that he was weaning, Arno could eat solid matter. Though he could still only eat things that were boiled until they became soft.

I took a spoonful and tasted it. —Nn, okay, it's not too hot, and the flavour is not too strong.

After confirming it, I carried the spoon to Arno's mouth.

"Is it good? That's nice."

Arno's stomach became full and the dish became empty, so his mealtime is over. I then fed him diluted fruit juice, but since we needed to eat as well I laid him in a basket with a blanket.

"——Now then, bon appétit."

After talking to mother and Sieg who were watching Arno's mealtime, we started our dinnertime.

First, I tried the steamed mussels. I speared the mussel with a fork and carried it to my mouth.

"Uwa, delicious!"

The mussel was condensed with flavour and was elastic, and biting into it made a soup with deep flavour flow out. The flavour of the wine was there slightly, so the soup remaining in the shell was delicious as well.

"Ritchan, Linde-chan, try removing the mussel with the shell."

"Hehh."

By using a used shell, the mussels were separated from their shells much easier than using forks. Apparently people in other countries all ate like this.

The soup mother made was great too.

The mussel soup had a rich flavour, and went well with rye bread.

Sieg was also happy, saying, "It's the first time I had mussels this delicious."

The mussels were delicious.

We discussed about preserving the rest.

The next day.

We processed the rest of the mussels.

Like yesterday, the shells are scrubbed clean then steamed in a pot with oil and wine.

Once the mussels opened, the flesh was cut off while the heat from cooking still remained.

The cooked mussels are then dipped in a pickling liquid made with spices, berries, salt, old molasses, saltpetre, water and alcohol, after which it was left in a cold storeroom for few hours.

The mussels that were marinated for half a day were then washed to remove the salt.

Once the moisture was removed with a cloth, they were then dried outside overnight. The next day, fragrant oil was applied then the mussels were smoked with the open shell facing downwards.

Having been exposed to the smoke for several hours, the mussel became firm.

I showed the finished smoked mussels to Sieg.

"Sieg, look."

"You made quite an amazing thing."

"Really?"

I felt that we were both thinking that it could go well with alcohol.

It was still afternoon. Too early to be drinking.

We decided that we will enjoy the mussels at night then worked hard for the afternoon.

I also told mother to make soup using the smoked mussels.

Night.

Dinner and baths were over, and we put Arno to sleep. Therefore, we brought out the smoked mussels and white wine.

“It’s been a long time since we had a drink.”

“Indeed.”

Since Arno had become the centre of our life, we did not have the time to drink like this.

I opened the bottle of high-quality wine that grandfather left. I made sure to remove sediments like I was taught and then poured the wine into a glass.

“Delicious.”

“N~n, burning.”

After saying our impressions on the alcohol, we reached out for the mussels. Since it was smoked with the shells still, it was easy to eat.

The smoked mussels I had made just today had a dense flavour, to describe it with one phrase.

The flavour was even more condensed than the steamed mussels and the more I chewed, the sweeter the mussels became. It went down well since it had a salty-spicy flavour, and in addition it went well with alcohol. It was the first time that I almost thought I liked dry wine.

“I think these would sell if you put them on sale.”

“Really?”

Sieg was satisfied as well.

“It really is different when using the pickling liquid I had learned to make from father-in-law.”

“Is that so?”

“Yup. Clearly different.”

The smoking method I learned from father-in-law helped even here. So much that I somewhat reflected that the method that I had been using was spoiling the flavour.

Making goods is an ever deep field.

I thought that it would be nice to continue living a this prosperous life, making use of various knowledge I learned from father-in-law.

Chapter 81 - At the Village of the Fairies — First Half

I received a letter inviting me to come over to Ritzhard-kun's village a year after they left this place.

I had thought that he was inviting me over when the auroras are frequent, but he wrote that it might be harsh in winter, since the port close to the village gets frozen and inaccessible and one has to take five hours of sleigh riding. Instead he suggested that I visit in summer.

Indeed, when one grows old the cold becomes more biting. Here, I followed Ritzhard-kun's recommendation and decided to visit in the relatively warm season of summer.

I asked my wife if she was going, but she said that she will not be going on grounds that both the lord and the lady should not leave one's fief. When I discussed that with Lüneburg-san, Ritzhard-kun's grandfather, he said, "Then why don't we go together."

I hired more people for the ranch and finished more work beforehand, then left for a trip.

To the foreign village, it took about two days. During that period, I shared drinks with Lüneburg-san and spent a meaningful time.

After travelling like this, I think that it might have been the right move, not having my old wife with me.

Relaxing, drinking, sleeping. Living unlike a noble was rather enjoyable. I was working every day, so it was a good change to relax once in a while.

When we arrived at the port, we were greeted by Ritzhard-kun.

"It's been a while, father-in-law, grandfather."

"Ah, it has been a while."

He greeted us with two arms wide open, so I exchanged a hug with him. I never had done this even with my daughter and my sons. I felt a strange sensation. My son-in-law is ever the kind man.

“Grandfather, you too!”

“I refuse!”

Lüneburg-san rejected the offer, saying that, “I would not be happy from receiving a hug from a man turning thirty!” As always, he is not very honest.

It seemed that we were to ride a carriage to the village.

We got on the carriage reserved for us and set off from the port city.

In the carriage, we discussed what each of us has been doing recently.

It seemed that Lüneburg-san has recently been focusing his efforts on philanthropic work.

“Father-in-law, how about you?”

“As for myself, I have recently started raising alpacas.”

“Ah, some time ago I bought an alpaca fur coat over at your land. The fur was warm and cozy.”

“Indeed! Even my wife is looking forward to wearing them in winter.”

Before I came here, I finished the first shaving. Apparently, the first shaved fur is the highest grade fur. With those, I made winter hats for my two granddaughters and my wife.

“Ah, right. Grandfather, what happened to father?”

“He is under custody in the mansion so that he will not run away, so you can rest easy.”

Ritzhard-kun's father is working to finish up his research for the presentation in the academia. Apparently, he has strong wanderlust so the people of the marquisate are watching him closely.

While talking about those things, we arrived at the village about an hour later.

The first thing that came into my sight was the lush green forest. Unlike the dark forests in my homeland, there was a fantastical sight as if the fairies would actually have lived there. The air was fresh as well.

The next thing that surprised me was the great fortress that surrounded the village. Apparently, it was built to protect against beasts around three centuries ago.

The stone was sturdy. Ritzhard-kun smiled listlessly that most of the village budget went to the maintenance of the walls.

There were surprised even inside the village. Children playing outside, young women working outside, ladies gathering at the wells, everyone had white hair and blue eyes, having an otherworldly appearance.

This really is the village of fairies. I was at a loss for words.

"Ritzhard-kun, this is amazing. This really is the village of fairies."

I believe Edelgard and Adelgard, who like fairies, will also like this place. I vowed to bring them on a trip here after they grow up a bit.

After walking a while through the village, we arrived at Ritzhard-kun's mansion.

There were many shed at his place.

A storeroom for storing hunted prey, a storeroom for storing fur, there were various facilities for their self-sufficient life.

When we arrived at the door, Ritzhard shouted inside.

“Sieg, mother, Arno, father-in-law and grandfather has come——!”

When he shouted that, Sieg came out from inside the mansion.

“Aa, it has been a while, grandfather-in-law. Father as well.”

Seeing her after few months, Sieg was still the healthy child I remember her to be.

“My my, Linde-chan’s father and father-in-law.”

Ritzhard-kun’s mother, who came out a little later, also looked healthy.

The one year old Arno toddled along while holding onto her mother’s hand.

“Ohhh!! Arno!!”

To that adorable site, Lüneburg-san reacted first. “You grew big!” he said as he lifted his great-grandson with a big smile on his face.

“So you can already walk?! What a dashing figure! That’s my great-grandson!”

Lüneburg-san was lovestruck for Arno. Seeing that, I felt heartwarmed.

“Grandfather, we should let father-in-law also see Arno.”

“A, aa, sorry about that!”

While still holding him up, Lüneburg-san showed Arno to me. But without letting him go.

“Hello Arno, you grew big.”

Meeting him after a year, my grandson has been growing up well. When I patted him, he opened his eye thinly and made an adult-like smile. Come to think of it, my children did say that he sometimes makes a nihilistic smile.

Recently, he could talk a little, so it was cute seeing him speak with clumsy sentences. I enjoyed playing with my one-year-old grandson.

When we were about to enter the house with permission from Ritzhard-kun’s mother, I felt a presence behind so I turned around.

It was closer than I had expected. It was the first time I let my backside be caught, so sweat formed on my brows.

“——U-Uwa, a bear!”

There stood a white bear hauling a bear.

No, on closer look, it was not a white bear, but someone wearing white bear fur.

“Ah, Teoporon, what is it?”

Ritzhard-kun ran over to the white bear man.

Wearing white bear fur with his upper half exposed, the man had hunted prey for us guests as a sign of welcome with those thick arms.

I did hear about Teoporon, the bear fur wearing hunter from another land, but when I saw him in person I could not help but be amazed at that bulky body and the great white fur.

I heard that he does not understand our language, but nevertheless I introduced myself and held out a hand. However, he did not look at the outstretched hand and pounded his chest with a fist instead.

“I see, so that is the warrior’s greeting of Teoporon-dono.”

When I copied him and pounded my chest in courtesy, Teoporon-dono smiled, showing an expression that was both dignified and serene.

Somehow, I felt that I would be able to share drinks with him even if words did not get through.



I was wondering when the sun would set, but apparently this period was a time called white nights when the sun did not set all day. When I looked at the clock, it could clearly be called night so it was strange seeing the outside being still bright.

“The villagers all like summer.”

In winter, an opposite phenomenon called polar nights when the sun does not rise all day long visits.

During that period, people cannot hunt, and have to stay indoors all day. Ritzhard-kun recounted that living alone in the dark is a depressing thing.

When I thought of Ritzhard-kun being alone, for some reason I was moved to tears.

It seemed like I was not the only one, since Lüneburg-san was also turning his head to not have his teary eyes given away.

“However, I have family now so even the polar nights are fun.”

“I see, that’s a relief.”

I sincerely thanked the miraculous meeting of Sieg and Ritzhard-kun.

After dinner, it was time to give him the gifts we brought.

For Arno, a picture book and earmuffs made from young alpaca fur. Beauty wash for the ladies, and a high-quality knife made from a well-renowned company for Ritzhard-kun.

Lüneburg-san brought clothes in the shape of a baby bear for the baby, and delivered it with an indescribable expression.

“W-Well, it’s summer now, but I brought winter clothes.”

“Ah, but, it gets cold at night, so why don’t we try them on Arno?”

“!”

Having understood that he was yearning to see him wear the baby clothes, Ritzhard-kun was putting on the baby clothes to Arno.

Seeing Arno’s dashing figure of wearing the bear clothes, Lüneburg-san nodded deeply and murmured something mysterious, “There’s potential,” or so.

Then, we played games, tasted the alcohol Ritzhard-kun made, spending an enjoyable time.

Like so, the night deepened in the cheerful foreign land.

Chapter 82 - At the Village of the Fairies — Second Half

When I woke up in the morning, I found a vivid blue clothing placed at my bedside.

I wonder if it was something Ritzhard-kun prepared.

I was surprised that the clothing was made out of fur even though it was summer, but when I got out of bed there was a nip in the air.

I see, I thought and wore the clothes he prepared for me.

The traditional clothes I newly tried on had a base of bright blue fabric, with red embroidery like strips on the cuffs, the collars and the hems layered upon one another. It was a colourful blue and red clothing, but once I wore it did not bother me that much. It was a neat design. I then put on a belt that looked like it was made out of animal leather. The trousers were black and easy to move in.

After washing up in the bathroom, I headed to the dining room-cum-living room.

“Come on, try saying, great-grandfather.”

“Great, gra~”

“Oh, doing great! Great, grand, father.”

“Great, grand, father.”

“A-A genius!?”

From outside the room, I could hear Lüneburg-san and Arno playing together. While I was deliberating whether or not I should interrupt their honeymoon, someone spoke to me from behind.

“Huh, father-in-law.”

“Ah, morning. Ritzhard-kun.”

“Good morning! The traditional clothes look good on you. Was the size alright?”

“Ah, thank you. The dress length was perfect.”

After chatting lightly, he offered to let me enter first. I apologised to Lüneburg-san in my head as I excused myself.

“Good morning, Lüneburg-san.”

“Umu.”

“Arno too, morning.”

Lüneburg-san was hugging Arno on his lap with a prim face as if nothing had happened.

Ritzhard-kun approached the two of them and greeted them.

First, there was a basketful of small and round loaves of bread called Pulla. Pulla means ‘sweet bread’ in the language of this country. It seems that the taste differs for every household.

The soup was made with crushed beans and milk. Arno had these with bread.

Then the main meal was a herb roast of reindeer meat. I did not expect a meat dish to be served from the morning, so I was very surprised.

However, reindeer meat had a surprisingly taste. It was not tough, and there was a different taste to it when eaten with berry sauce.

I already had reindeer stew last night, but I found that I liked this better.

Even though there were guests, Ritzhard and others went out to work. To work every day, I really thought that he was an admirable young man.

I thought that he was going to go out hunting, but he replied that hunting is prohibited during summer. It seems that the fact that animals are born in spring and grow until winter was not different from my homeland.

How should I spend the day? When I thought that, instructions of work came from my daughter.

“Father, won’t you help as well.”

“Sieg, let’s let father-in-law rest.”

“No, it does not matter.”

It seems that a festival will be held in the village for the first time.

“Hehh, a festival?”

“Yes. Apparently father planned it.”

To get tourists even out of the aurora season, all the villagers opened stalls, sometimes selling traditional goods at cheaper prices.

It did not look as though there were many customers who reserved accommodation, but it seemed that they were assuming that there would be many guests since they were advertising in the port city as well.

“So, what are you selling?”

“We’re planning on selling chicken which are spiced with herbs and roasted whole, then wrapped in a thin wrap made out of flour.”

“Hehh, sounds appetising.”

As for the other residents, they are planning on making reindeer skewer, seasonal berry tarts, or other goods that don’t take that much effort, so Ritzhard made a plan to sell something different.

I was asked to handle the cutting of the poultry.

Ritzhard-kun washed the meat and applied salt and herbs with deft movements.

The next day, it was the day of the festival. Already from the morning, the town was crowded.

The usually quiet town square was filled with energetic children. The delicious fragrance of roasting meat rode the wind.

And then, at our stall, Teoporon-san was roasting meat in a stirring manner.

Teoporon-san was roasting meat by a big fire while wearing bear fur and some distance away Lüneburg-san was watching, also wearing bear fur. Whatever they did, they were the most notable in the village.

I wondered if it would be hot to wear bear fur in front of a fire, but they had serious expressions so I could not dare ask.

I did my best to remove the two bears out of my sight, and focused on what was going on at the front of the stall.

Ritzhard-kun's mother was deftly making flour wraps on an iron pan, while Teoporon-san's wife and daughter cut the roasted chicken into smaller pieces then wrapped them in the finished wrap, wrapping the whole thing in paper to finish.

Their well-coordinated movements were like that of a master, but I could only be surprised since that was not their main occupation.

In addition, thanks to Ritzhard-kun's superb reception skills, the chicken sold very well.

On a side note, my daughter is on an errand for the women's association of the village.

She is selling jams made from berries.

As for myself, I had been tasked with the important task of hugging and soothing Arno.

The prepared chicken got sold out already in the morning.

Ritzhard-kun declared that we had free time from the afternoon.

I wondered what I should do from here on, but Ritzhard-kun was going out to buy lunch, so I decided to accompany him.

Since we were going into a crowded place, I left Arno to Lüneburg-san.

“Ah, it’s the baker from the port.”

When we walked a little, we came across a normal bakery.

An exotic swirled bread, with lots of spices that gave off a sweet smell, called ‘Korvapuusti’ was on sale, so he bought a lot of those.

Roasted reindeer, fish skewers, potato fries, dumplings with sweet sauce, imported fruits, there were many things.

While carrying mountains of food on both arms, I returned.

When I returned, I found Sieg freed from the women’s association.

She had brought drinks and soup.

All the family gathered in one place for lunch.

“Father-in-law, are you alright?”

“The festival here is fun, I am enjoying it very much.”

“Then that’s a relief.”

It was quite strange seeing no stalls sell sausages. Also, I could not see beer. Apparently, making sweet fruit liqueur was the trend in the village.

All the food we bought were delicious.

I could understand why Sieg said that she wanted to return quickly.

An overwhelming lushness and a soft green shade covered the village.

The alcohol I had in a summer scenery different from home tasted good.

“Ritzhard. Will you be coming again in winter?”

“That was what we thought, but,”

“What is it?”

Ritzhard-kun looked at Sieg.

“I don’t think it’s certain yet though.”

“Oh, ohh!”

“Sieg, that means!?”

She announced that she might be pregnant for the second time.

She was only drinking fruit juice when she liked alcohol, so I was wondering what might have happened.

“What a joyous day!”

Lüneburg-san looked happier than anyone, saying that Arno was going to have a little brother or a little sister.

On the second day of the festival, Lüneburg-san bought drinks for everyone in the village because he was so happy.

Since the news that Sieg was pregnant was not made public, a rumour spread of a mysterious and energetic old man going around the village, or so was detailed in the letter I received from Ritzhard-kun later, that I ended up laughing.

Finally, it was written that he had a request.

When I wondered what it might be, it was that he wanted me to name the child.

I did not expect to be naming a child, so I agonised over it for months.

In the end, I decided to gift the name of 'Veronica' which meant 'bringing victory' in a foreign language.

What if it is a boy? My wife pointed out, but for some reason I had confidence that the child this time is a girl.

A few months later, I received news that Sieg gave birth to a healthy daughter.

At the news of Veronica's birth, all the family got excited.

Some months later, I would visit the village in summer with my two granddaughters, but that is a story for another time.